

Magor and St. Mellons  
Rural District Council.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

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FOR THE YEAR 1940.

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NEWPORT, MON.

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1941.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons  
Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the general conditions of Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The Report is drawn up on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health (Wales) Circular 2,314, and is in the nature of an Interim Report only—in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (consisting of twenty-six parishes) ...	44,074 acres	
Population: Estimated to middle of 1940,		
"                    "                    "                    "	12,690	X
"                    At amalgamation of Magor and St Mellons Councils ...	15,118	
Census figures, 1931 (adjusted for present amalga- mated Rural District) ...	14,881	
Number of inhabited houses ...	3,360	X
Rateable value ...	£73,034	
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£270	

(\*As ascertained in the prescribed manner under R. & V. Act, 1925.)

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The inhabitants of a large part of this Rural District are engaged in agricultural pursuits, mostly cattle rearing, etc., and producing and retailing milk, there being a ready market for this in Cardiff and Newport.

A new industry, giving employment to a large number of people, has commenced operations in this Council's Area on the site of another works, previously closed down. A large proportion of those employed at the new works live outside this Rural District, and travel daily to and from work from adjacent areas.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population, 1940 (Mid-year Estimate for District as now constituted) from Registrar General ... 12,690

### BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births registered was :—

		M.	F.	Total
Total Births	... ..	72	73	145
Legitimate	... ..	69	69	138
Illegitimate	... ..	3	4	7
Still Births	... ..	3	4	7

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of population for 1940 was	11.4
The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1940 was ...	14.6
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was ... ..	16.5
The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births was ...	50.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

#### Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

Number of Deaths 6 (3 boys and 3 girls), giving a	
Rate per 1,000 live births of ... ..	40.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	Nil
The rate for the whole of England and Wales was	55.
The rate for Monmouthshire was ... ..	67.7
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	Nil

#### Ages of Children at Death under 1 year:

Under 1 week	... ..	2
1—2 weeks	... ..	1
2—3 weeks	... ..	1
3—4 weeks	... ..	—
Total under 1 month		4
1—3 months	... ..	1
3—6 months	... ..	1
6—9 months	... ..	—
9—12 months	... ..	—
Total under 1 year		6

## DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 154 (M. 70, F. 84), giving a crude Death Rate of 12.1 per 1,000.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was ...	14.3
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was ...	13.4
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil
Deaths from other Puerperal causes ... ..	Nil
Giving a Rate per 1,000 births of ... ..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	2.16

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc. ... ..	Nil	Nil
Measles ... ..	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ... ..	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ... ..	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	Nil	Nil
Influenza ... ..	Nil	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	1	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	2	3
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	1	1
Syphilis ... ..	1	Nil
Cancer ... ..	8	13
Diabetes ... ..	2	Nil
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	3	5
Heart Disease ... ..	15	20
Other Circulatory ... ..	1	3
Bronchitis ... ..	7	8
Pneumonia ... ..	3	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	Nil
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	Nil	Nil
Appendicitis ... ..	Nil	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	2	4
Nephritis ... ..	4	5
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal ... ..	Nil	Nil
Premature Birth ... ..	2	1
Congenital Causes, etc. ... ..	Nil	2
Suicide ... ..	1	Nil
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	5	Nil
Other Violent Causes ... ..	3	2
All Other Causes... ..	6	8

## HOSPITAL SERVICES, etc.

As indicated in the Report for 1939. There were no changes in these Services during the year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (whole time officer).

A contribution of one-half the salaries is paid by the Ministry of Health.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—No provision is made by the Council for general nursing. This work is carried on by private enterprise and District Nursing Associations, supported by voluntary contributions.

There is no change from previous years.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Nil.

**Midwives.**—The number of midwives practising in the area is 6 :—

Bassaleg	...	...	1	Undy	..	...	...	1
Castleton	...	...	1	Rhiwderin	...	..	...	1
St. Mellons	...	...	1	Rogerstone	..	...	...	1

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The general position regarding water supplies throughout the area remains substantially the same as indicated in last year's Report.

During the year preliminary work was commenced on new water mains in the Parishes of Magger and Redwick.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—During the year 1940 there was no important extensions or alterations to the sewerage and drainage systems in this area.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(See Sanitary Inspector's Report—Page 10)

**Smoke Abatement.**—It has not been found necessary to take any action under this head.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	...	...	13
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or persons	...	...	...	13

# **1.—Inspection of Dweling Houses during the Year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	107
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	219
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	47
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	83
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	3
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	68

## **2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:—**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	47
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## **3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**

### **(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

### **(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	18
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners ... ..	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

The distribution of the milk is, on the whole, carried out in a satisfactory manner.

A large proportion of the milk produced in the District is sold in Cardiff and Newport.

There are 252 registered wholesale producers of Milk in the Council area, and 120 Milk Retailers.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Sanitary Inspector after the receipt of a Notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the Patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens are carried out at the County Council Laboratory.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied free by the Council, and is extensively used.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

No further work has been done under this head during the year.

There were 19 cases of Diphtheria and only 4 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. Most of these were cases of a mild type.



## Notifiable Diseases.

### Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1940.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.				Age Groups.							Deaths.				Age Groups.							Number Admitted to Hospitals						
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Totals all ages	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35		35—45	45—65	65 & over	Totals all ages		
Diphtheria .....				1	1	3	3		1				19													Nil.	12		
Scarlet Fever .....						1	1		1				4													Nil.	2		
Enteric Fever .....													Nil.													Nil.	17		
Pneumonia .....		1					2		2			1	6							2	1			1	2	6	Nil.	17	
Puerperal Fever .....													Nil.								1					3	Nil.	7	
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....			1			1			4	4	1	3	14													Nil.	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia .....													Nil.													Nil.	1		
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1												1													Nil.	1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	1	4	8	6	8	29	1	1	2				60													Nil.	7		
Measles .....																													
Totals	2	6	9	7	9	44	7	6	10	1	3	1	105							2	2		2	3	9	28			

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

Cancer was not unduly prevalent. Facilities provided at the Radium Centre at Cardiff are used by sufferers from this disease.

Blindness cases are treated by the County in the case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and in the Borough for others.

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	2	—
Diphtheria		...	19	12	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)			—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia...		...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...		6	—	6
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis		...	16	7	3
Measles	...	...	60	7	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 years	...			...	...	...	1	...
1-5 "	...			1	...	...	...	...
5-15 "	...	1		...	...	...	...	...
15-25 "		1		...	...	...	...	...
25-35 "	1	4		1	1	3	...	...
35-45 "	1		1	...	1	...	...	...
45-65 "	...	1			...	...	...	...
65 and up	...	1			1		...	...
	...		...		...	...	...	...
Total	2	8	1	2	3	3	1	—

The rate of Non-notified T.B. Deaths to total T.B. Deaths is Nil.

It is pleasing to note the comparatively small number of deaths from Tuberculosis.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas.

Notifications of cases by Private Medical Practitioners are prompt and satisfactory.

There is nothing requiring special note of an industrial character, or in conditions of employment, predisposing to Tuberculosis.

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)  
Regulations, 1925.**

Under these regulations a person suffering from Tuberculosis is prohibited from engaging in an occupation which involves the handling of milk by him, under such conditions as to create a danger of infection of the milk.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under these regulations.

**Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172).**

No action was taken under Section 172 for compulsory removal to Hospital of any infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Under this enactment a Local Authority are empowered to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal of any person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis who is in an infectious state, for his detention and maintenance therein for such period not exceeding three months as the Court thinks fit.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N. WADE.

## MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

I beg to submit, herewith, an abbreviated Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1940.

102 Preliminary Notices and Informal Intimations relating to various nuisances and their abatement, were sent during the year.

Representations were made in respect of a further 3 houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be "unfit" for human habitation.

During the year a further 3 "unfit" structurally defective houses have been repaired and "re-conditioned," and put in a proper habitable condition.

### House Refuse Collection.

Collection of house refuse is carried out by Contract in the Parishes of Rogerstone, Graig, Duffryn, Marshfield, St. Mellons, Henllys, Llanwern, and Langstone.

### Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The Refuse Tips have been periodically "baited" during the year, and numerous complaints and enquiries received from householders respecting nuisance from rats on their premises dealt with.

### Summary of Inspections, Repairs, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out, and inspections made during the year.

Houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	68
Houses represented as "unfit"	...	...	...	...	...	3
Additional light and ventilation in rooms	...	...	...	...	...	8
Additional height in bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	3

Pantries or Larders provided	...	...	...	2
Floors of living rooms relaid, or repaired	...	...	...	11
Forecourts and backyards to houses newly paved and repaired	...	...	...	6
Rainwater troughing and down pipes newly provided or renewed (premises)	...	...	...	42
Houses re-roofed	...	...	...	2
Damp walls repaired and remedied	...	...	...	7
Inspections following complaints	...	...	...	29
Various nuisances abated	...	...	...	31
Offensive ditches and water courses cleansed	...	...	...	2
Cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	1
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	5
Wells repaired	...	...	...	2
Premises provided with more adequate supply of water	...	...	...	2
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	...	49

### Infectious Diseases.

All cases of notified Infectious Diseases were visited and investigated, and the house disinfected at the certified termination of each infectious illness.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	118
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	49
Cases removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	36

### Water Supplies..

Number of samples taken, 18.

These samples were taken from (a) Council's Reservoir, Castleton; (b) private reservoirs; (c) various house supplies; (d) rain water storage tanks, and (e) "Well" and "Spring" water supplies in the Rural District.

Appropriate action was taken when necessary on Reports received upon the samples submitted for analysis

### House Drains.

New drains laid (excluding new houses)	...	...	...	3
Repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	23

### Water Closets.

New water closets provided to existing houses	...	...	...	1
Repaired	...	...	...	63
New flush tanks provided to existing houses	...	...	...	19
Flush tanks repaired	...	...	...	59
Defective closet pans replaced by new ones	...	...	...	34

### Cesspools.

New cesspools constructed ... ..	1
Cleansed and repaired ... ..	11

### Slaughterhouses.

In consequence of centralised slaughtering having been introduced throughout the country by the Ministry of Food under their scheme of Livestock and Meat Control, no slaughtering of animals has been carried out during the year in the slaughterhouses in this Rural District.

Three applications were received for licenses under the Slaughter of Animals Act to slaughter animals, and annual licenses were granted in each case by the Council.

Approximately 3¾ cwt. of Meat—most of which was imported—found on examination to be “unsound” and unfit for human food, was voluntarily surrendered and dealt with.

In view of the necessity for salvaging all possible “food waste,” etc., arrangements were made with the authorities concerned for this “condemned” meat to be disposed of for by-products (fats, bones, etc.).

### Milk Supply.

Inspections of the Cowsheds, Dairies, etc., in the Council's area have been carried out during the year, and representations made to the persons responsible regarding any insanitary conditions, etc., requiring to be remedied.

Number of Producers and/or Wholesale Traders on the Register, 31/12/40 ... ..	252
Number of Retail Purveyors on the Register, 31/12/40 ... ..	*120

(\*Of this number 71 are also registered as “Producers”)

### Cowsheds and Dairies.

New outbuildings for milk, utensils, etc. ... ..	2
Cowsheds repaired ... ..	3
New floors constructed or repaired ... ..	3
Increased light and ventilation ... ..	3
Drains provided or repaired ... ..	1
More adequate water supply ... ..	1
Representations as to limewashing and cleansing (complied with) ... ..	21

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. LEWIS,

*Sanitary and Housing Inspector.*



